

AARONS RUN ROAD LANDSLIDE EMERGENCY

GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Abstract

Maryland is a minimum program state and the Maryland Abandoned Mine Land Division (AMLD) faces many challenges from the legacy of past mining practices. On May 19, 2014, a well-used rural mountain roadway collapsed in Garrett County and County officials were forced to close the roadway. Access by citizens and commercial truck traffic was no longer possible and would require a 6 mile detour until repaired. The closure of Aarons Run Road affected many people living in the area plus a deep mine and surface mine operation that used the roadway to haul coal. The closure also affected emergency services response to the area.

AMLD was contacted by the County officials to investigate the collapse that appeared to be due to deep mines in the area. After visiting the site, the AMLD confirmed that the source of the problem was due to a landslide caused by an abandoned underground mine underneath and adjacent to the roadway. Over the course of the project, AMLD coordinated with Federal, State, and County agencies, investigated the nature of the problem, determined that the situation met the criteria for an emergency, moved quickly to evaluate possible reclamation solutions, developed designs, calculated estimated costs, obtained landowner permission, identified available funds, and completed reconstruction of the roadway in record time. All initial engineering designs pointed to a pile and lagging wall with tie-backs at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million or more due to very difficult site constraints. The project was completed on November 21, 2014 at a total cost of \$683,175.75 by excavating the entire slide and utilizing a rock buttress.

